

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 7, 13 and 21 without prejudice, estoppel or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Add new claims 22- 32, as follows:

1.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) A surgical procedure using a multi-lumen cannula including a first lumen extending therethrough between proximal and distal ends thereof and having a transparent tapered tip at the distal end of the first lumen for receiving an endoscope therein, and including a second lumen extending for receiving a surgical instrument therein, the procedure comprising:

advancing the cannula to dissect tissue with the transparent tapered tip
under endoscopic visualization through the transparent tip;
selectively extending the surgical instrument out of the second lumen
forward of the cannula; and
performing the surgical procedure using the surgical instrument under
endoscopic visualization through the transparent tapered tip.

18. (Withdrawn) The procedure of claim 17 wherein the surgical tool is surgical scissors, and performing the surgical procedure comprises transecting side branches of a saphenous vein.

19. (Withdrawn) The procedure of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
removing the scissors from the second lumen of the cannula;

inserting a cradled retractor into the second lumen of the cannula;
extending the retractor from the second lumen forward of the cannula to
cradle the vein; and
advancing the retractor along the vein under endoscopic visualization
through the transparent tip to ensure that side branches of the vein
have been transected.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of harvesting veins using a multi-lumen cannula in which
a first lumen houses an endoscope and has a transparent tip and a second lumen houses a
surgical scissors comprising:

advancing the cannula along a vein under endoscopic visualization;
dissecting tissue responsive to advancing the cannula with the transparent
tip;
responsive to viewing a sidebranch requiring transection, extending the
surgical scissors out of the cannula; and
transecting the sidebranch.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) Surgical apparatus comprising an elongated cannula further
comprising:

a first lumen extending within the cannula between proximal and distal
ends thereof for housing an endoscope therein;

a transparent tip disposed at the distal end of the first lumen for performing tissue dissection and providing endoscopic visualization therethrough;

a second lumen eccentric the first lumen and having an open distal end positioned proximal to the distal end of the first lumen for housing a medical instrument therein to protrude from the open distal end for performing procedures on tissue viewed through the transparent tip; and

a flexible hood extending from the distal end of the second lumen and gradually tapering down towards the distal end of the first lumen, the hood maintaining its tapered configuration even in the absence of a medical instrument in the second lumen, to form a smooth transition surface adjacent the transparent tip to facilitate blunt tissue dissection and maneuverability.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the flexible hood comprises an open distal end and wherein the flexible hood assumes expanded configuration in response to extension through the distal end thereof of the medical instrument projecting from the open distal end of the second lumen and through the open distal end of the hood.
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising at least one additional lumen.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the second lumen houses scissors.
26. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the second lumen houses a dissection loop.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the second lumen houses a retractor for cradling a vein.
28. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the second lumen houses a tool for use in vessel harvesting procedure.
29. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the hood is constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of latex, silicone rubber, polyurethane and polyethylene.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein a distal end of the hood extends substantially to a proximal edge of the transparent tip.
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the transparent tip is not removable.
32. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein a rotational orientation of the scissors is fixed relative to the transparent tip.